

REMARKS

Claims 19-35 are active in the present application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a composition that is useful as a water scavenger, a dryer or a premature-crosslinking preventative.

Invention

The present invention is directed to composition that is comprised of one or more alkoxysiloxane compound which is selected from the group consisting of catenate alkoxysiloxane compounds of formula I



and cyclic siloxane compounds of formula II



wherein m is an integer ranging from 0 to 40 and n is an integer from 2 to 40, groups R are identical or different and each is a hydrocarbon-functional group selected from the group consisting of vinyl, allyl, phenyl, n-alkyl, iso-alkyl, and cyclo-alkyl having from 1 to 18 carbon atoms or is an alkoxy group. Further, not more than one hydrocarbon-functional group is attached to each silicon atom. The composition also contains a crosslinkable polymer.

Prior Art Rejection, 35 USC 103

Claims 2-18 stand rejected based on 35 USC 103 as obvious over Berg et al, U. S. Patent 5,895,794. This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated previously, the Berg et al patent discloses a crosslinked polysiloxane dispersion that is comprised of a siloxane polymer, a polymer mixture- or polymer/solvent mixture, and is thereby a silicone latex dispersion that is useful in a variety of applications as sealants, putties, molding materials and foams. An optional component of the dispersion is a cross-linking agent. Other components of the dispersion include a surfactant, fillers and the like. One type of crosslinker that can be used is a silicon hydride type of compound (col 13). A second system is disclosed in column 14 which employs a silane crosslinker of the type:  $R_xSiY_{4-x}$ , examples of which are methyltrimethoxysilane, phenyltrimethoxysilane and the like (lines 10-24). Column 15 of the patent discloses a third condensation system which employs an acyloxysilane crosslinker such as methyltriacetoxysilane, phenyltriacetoxysilane, and the like (lines 17-30), and a fourth condensation system is described in column 16, which system employs oximosilane crosslinkers of the type:  $R_xSi(O-N=C(R'R''))$  such as methyltris(methylethylketoxime)silane, vinyltris(methylethylketoxime)silane, and the like, or a crosslinker that contains at least two hydroxyl groups per molecule. In a fifth condensation system, as disclosed in column 17, the crosslinker that is employed is a silazane of the type:  $R_nSi(NR'_2)_{4-n}$ . A sixth condensation system is described in column 18 in which the crosslinker has at least two hydrolysable aminoxy groups, an example of which is a compound of the formula:  $R_nSi(ONR'R'')_{4-n}$ . Other compound formulas are also presented in the last paragraph of the column. A seventh condensation system described in column 19 requires an amidosilane

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crosslinker and an eighth condensation system described in column 20 requires a ureido organosilane of the formula:  $(R_nSi(NR'-(CO)-NR'')_{4-n})$ . Several other condensation systems are described in the patent. However, it is clear from this discussion and the patent that the reference neither shows nor suggests the claimed composition where the specific catenate alkoxysilane compound of formula (I) or the cyclic siloxane of formula (II) is combined with a crosslinkable polymer. At perhaps the closest point of correspondence between the alkoxysiloxane compound of the present claims and the crosslinkers disclosed in the patent, the catenate compound of the present claims has the formula:  $R_3Si-O-SiR_3$  while the crosslinker of the second condensation system has the formula:  $R_xSiY_{4-x}$  (R includes hydrocarbon radicals and Y is  $-OR'$  and is the likes of alkoxy). Clearly, the reference does not suggest the present invention as claimed, in particular, the alkoxysiloxane component, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

#### Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-18 stand rejected based on the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting as obvious over Claim 16 of U. S. Patent 6,780,955. This ground of rejection is believed overcome by the terminal disclaimer that is enclosed. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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It is believed that the application is in proper condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "F D Vastine".

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